



# DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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## Instructions for Students attending an **Independent Study Basic Hunter Education** Course

The Independent Study Basic Hunter Education Course is an alternative format to a traditional classroom course. Students enrolled in an independent study course, are guided by an instructor team and take the same course as students in a traditional course but will work independently to complete some of the essential coursework on their own. Independent Study students can accomplish this coursework by either completing a free online study guide or reading the student manual to answer questions in a student workbook.

**This essential homework is only part of the course.  
Students must also attend two class sessions and PASS the final exam as well.**

The main advantage with Independent Study is that this format offers flexibility. Students learn some of the material, at their own pace, on their own time, without attending several classes. This format does require as much time and effort as a traditional course and students will need to allot 6-8 hours of their time to complete the necessary coursework. Independent Study is a good option for students with tight schedules and who are self-motivated, conscientious and learn well on their own.

**Minor Students:** Students less than 18 years of age must have parental consent to attend our courses. Parents/Guardians are invited and encouraged to stay during the class sessions. Please note that this format may be difficult for students less than 16 years of age unless they receive guidance while completing the home assignment.

### **Tips for Success!**

- **Make it a Joint Effort:** Get help and discuss the lessons. It's okay to do the coursework with your family/friends as long as you understand every lesson and can complete the workbook/pass the quizzes on your own.
- **Do Not Wait Until the Last Minute:** Plan your time now. The homework takes most students 6 to 8 hours to complete.

## **How to Complete the Independent Study Course in 3 steps:**

1. **Attend the first class session.** Obtain instruction on course requirements, receive study materials including the student manual and learn about Hunting laws and Hunter ethics.
2. **Complete and submit the homework on the second day of class (aka the field day).** Only students who complete and submit the required coursework may attend the field day. There are two options (do A or B):
  - A. Complete and submit the **Northeast Hunter Education Manual Workbook**. The workbook is designed to reinforce what you learn by reading and studying the student manual. It is 36 pages long and is divided into chapters. We suggest you read and understand one chapter of the student manual at a time and then complete the corresponding chapter in the workbook, answering all questions. **Bring your completed workbook to the field day!**
  - B. Complete the **Online Hunter Safety Study Guide on huntercourse.com**. You will need your own email address, access to the internet, and a printer to complete the online homework.
    - Visit [www.huntercourse.com/usa/massachusetts](http://www.huntercourse.com/usa/massachusetts) and create an account using your legal name and your email address (*please note, each student will need their own, unique email address to create an account*).
    - Complete each of the 16 end-of-section quizzes with an 80% or better. You must receive a score of 80% or better in order to proceed to the next section. You can retake each quiz as many times as necessary.
    - Once all of the chapters are completed in their entirety and you have passed each end-of-chapter quiz with an 80% or better, you will receive an email from huntercourse.com. **Please print the email you receive from huntercourse.com and bring it to the field day!** This print-out is proof that you have completed the approved online homework.
3. **Participate in the field day and take the final exam.** At the field day, students participate in a number of hands-on activities. Class participation and performance is a factor in determining successful completion of the course. Students are expected to demonstrate safe gun handling and a mature and responsible attitude toward firearms, people and natural resources. There is also a final written exam. Students must pass the exam with a score of 80% or better.

## **Additional instructions for the Field Day**

- Do NOT bring any firearms or ammunition.
- Dress for the weather. Activities can occur outdoors rain or shine.
- Bring a bag lunch, snacks and plenty to drink and/or a reusable water bottle. Not all facilities have food or water to purchase.

## Questions?

Contact the MassWildlife Hunter Education Program if you have any questions or need assistance.

We can be reached at by phone at (508) 389-7820 or by email at [hunter.education@mass.gov](mailto:hunter.education@mass.gov)

Our office is open from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. Please leave a message if calling after hours!

You may also find additional resources through our webpages at

[www.mass.gov/hunterED](http://www.mass.gov/hunterED)

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